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ROGUE RIVER WATERSHED

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

as of

APRIL 1, 1955

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE and OREGON AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

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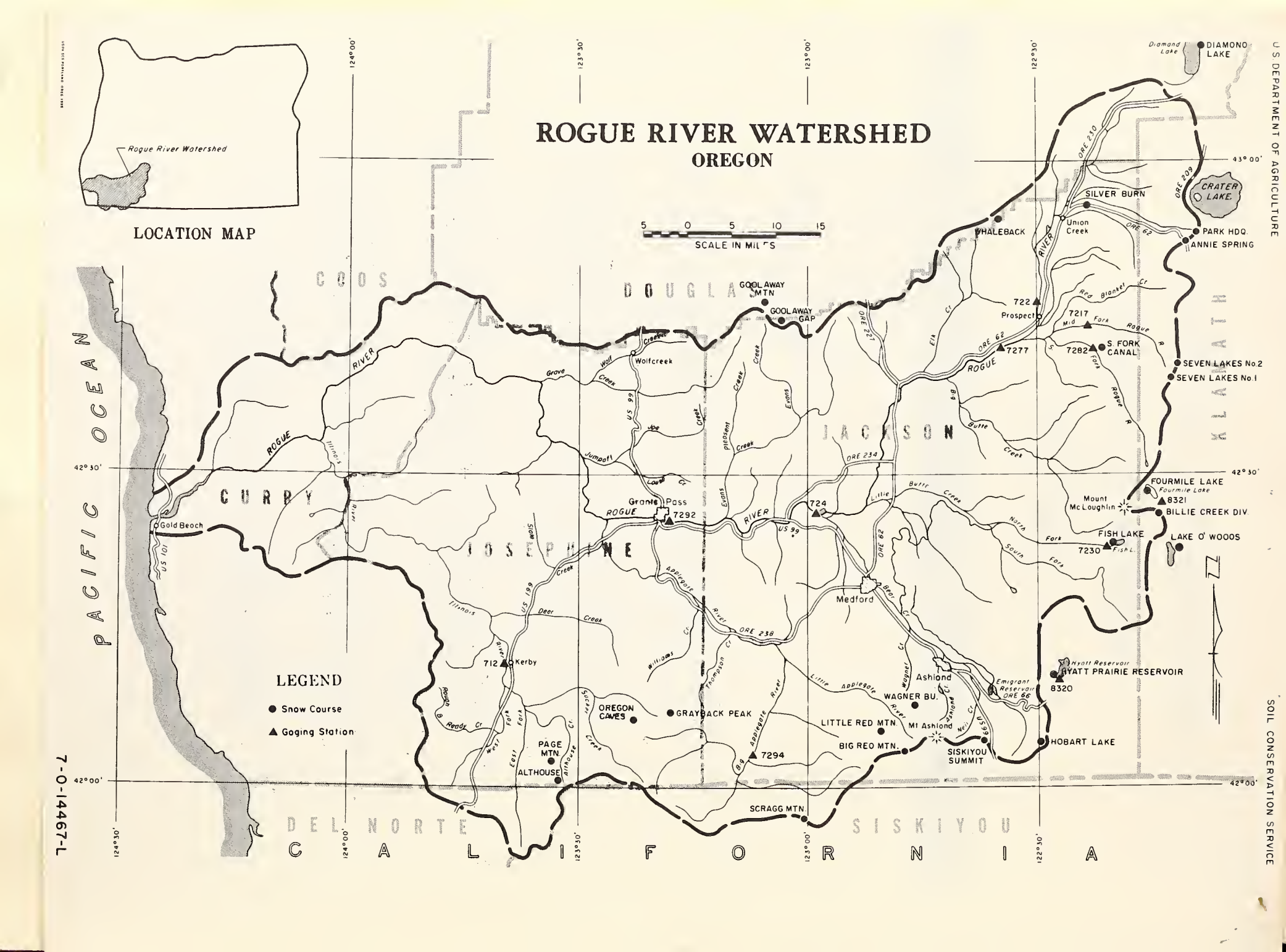
1 - 2 Water Supply Outlook: "Poor" to "fair" water supplies are forecast for Rogue River lands this season except for the Grants-Pass and Fort Vanoy Irrigation Districts which should have "good" supplies.

3 Streamflow Forecasts: Forecasts in the Rogue Basin vary from 87 percent of the 10 year average on the main Rogue through 88 percent on the Illinois and 76 percent on the Applegate to lows of 69 percent on Little Butte Creek and 62 percent at Hyatt Prairie Reservoir.

3 Reservoir Storage: Stored water in the four main reservoirs, Fourmile, Fish, Hyatt and Emigrant, is one-third less than last year but is better than the 10-year average. Hold-over storage from last year is very helpful in this year's water outlook.

4 Snow-Cover: Water content of the snow is 79 percent average and 62 percent of last year. On the Applegate and Illinois water sheds the snow is 72 and 83 percent average, respectively.

4 Soil-Moisture: Mountain watershed soils are generally very dry under the snow-pack. There are some exceptions, notably on the Umpqua-Rogue Divide at Goolaway Mountain.



U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK
For April-September, 1955[a]

Source of Water	Acreage Irrigated	Outlook
Althouse Creek	250	Short water supplies. Snow-cover at Grayback and Althouse snow courses is nearly as low as it was in 1951.
Ashland Creek	302	Short water supplies. Snow-cover is about the same as in 1951 and 1947.
Applegate River (Big)	6,687	Short water supplies for all but the older rights can be expected in August. Snow-cover is about half that of last year.
Applegate River (Little)	644	Short water supplies by early August. Snow-cover short and mountain soils very dry.
Bear Creek	375	Very short water this year with a greatly reduced return flow from other areas.
Butte Creek (Big)	5,222	Eagle Point Irrigation District will have an adequate water supply. Willow Valley Reservoir is full. Streamflow below average.
Elk Creek	136	Water shortage in late season.
Evans Creek	800	Short water supplies--mountain soils are very dry and will take up much snow-melt.
Fourmile and Fishlake Reservoirs	13,183	Medford and Rogue River Valley Irrigation Districts will likely be short in late season as older water rights will take most natural streamflow from South and North Forks of Little Butte Creek. Soils very dry.
Grave Creek	125	Short water supplies beginning in August.
Hyatt and Emigrant Reservoirs	10,317	Talent Irrigation District will run out of water in late August unless very heavy rains occur during critical periods of the irrigation season. Mountain watershed soils are very dry.

a - Assuming normal meteorological conditions during the April - September period.

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WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK (Contd.)

Source of Water	Acreage Irrigated	Outlook
Illinois River	400	Water shortages similar to those of 1951 are expected. Mountain soils are very dry. Snow-cover is about two-thirds that of last year.
Illinois River, East Fork	900	Shortages will develop during August.
Illinois River, West Fork	200	Shortages will develop during August.
Jump-off Joe Creek	210	Water shortages will develop in early August.
Neil Creek	1,178	Short water supplies. Snow-cover is about the same as in 1951 and 1947.
Red Blanket Creek	313	Late fall flow will be short this year.
Rough and Ready Creek	200	Short water supplies will occur by early August.
Rogue River	14,088	Adequate water for irrigation use. Snow-cover is only three-fourths that of last year and soils in the watershed are very dry. This year's flow will be 86 percent average at Grants Pass but the Grants Pass Irrigation District should have adequate water.
Slate Creek	200	Short water supplies.
Sucker Creek	1,042	Short water supplies will develop by early August. Snow-cover is nearly one-third less than last year.
Thompson Creek	861	Shortages will develop in late July.
Wagner Creek	445	Short water supplies--McDonald Ditch will be cut early in July this season.
Williams Creek	720	Shortages will begin in late July.

STREAMFLOW FORECASTS[a]

As of April 1, 1955

Gaging Station No.	Name	Seasonal Streamflow in 1000 a.f. Forecast 1955	Forecast Period	Avg. 1943-52	1955 as % of Avg.
7294	Applegate R., nr. Copper	92.0	Apr.-Sept.	121.2	76
8321	Fourmile Lake net Inflow*	5.5	Apr.-Sept.	7.4	74
8320	Hyatt Res. net Inflow*	3.6	Apr.-Sept.	5.8	62
712	Illinois R., nr. Kerby	160.0	Apr.-Sept.	182.5	88
7230	L.Butte Cr., N. Fk., blw Fish Lk.*	11.3	Apr.-Sept.	16.4	69
722	Rogue R., abv. Prospect*	300.0	Apr.-Sept.	344.5	87
	Rogue R., abv. Prospect*	250.0	Apr.-July	288.8	87
7217	Rogue R., M. Fk., nr. Prospect*	67.0	Apr.-Sept.	79.5	84
	Rogue R., M. Fk., nr. Prospect*	53.0	Apr.-July	63.0	84
7282	Rogue R., S. Fk., nr. Prospect*	71.0	Apr.-Sept.	84.0	85
	Rogue R., S. Fk., nr. Prospect*	61.0	Apr.-July	71.9	85
7277	Rogue R., below South Fork	640.0	Apr.-Sept.	733.7	87
	Rogue R., below South Fork	520.0	Apr.-July	597.4	87
724	Rogue R., at Raygold nr. Central Po.	850.0	Apr.-Sept.	972.4	87
	Rogue R., at Raygold nr. Central Po.	710.0	Apr.-July	817.7	87
7292	Rogue R., at Grants Pass	810.0	Apr.-Sept.	939.2	86

* Corrected to natural flow

RESERVOIR STORAGE

Reservoir	Usable Capacity 1000 a.f.	Thousand a.f. in storage about April 1, 1955 1955	1954	1953	10 Yr. Avg. 1943-52	1955 as % of 10 Yr. Avg.
Emigrant Gap	8.3	3.0	8.3	8.3	7.8	38
Fish Lake	7.8	5.6	7.0	6.8	5.1	110
Fourmile Lake	16.1	9.9	15.1	14.7	7.4	134
Hyatt Prairie	16.1	10.3	14.5	13.2	6.1	169
Total (4 Reservoirs)	48.3	28.8	44.9	43.0	26.4	109

SNOW COVER
As of April 1, 1955

Snow Course No.	Name	Elev.	1955 Snow Depth (in)	1955 Water Content (in)	Water Content (in) 1954	1953	Average	1955 as % of Avg.
---	below 4000' ---							
23G1	Goolaway Gap	3050'	0	0.0	--	--	1.4	0
23G2	Goolaway Mtn.	3780'	16	6.5	--	--	4.7	138
22Ga	Silver Burn	3720'	35	12.4	14.3	16.9	11.8	105
22G9	So. Fk. Canal	3500'	0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
	Average		--	4.7	7.2	8.4	4.5	104
---	4000' to 6000' ---							
23G4	Althouse	4400'	8.7	2.9	5.1	5.8	7.5	39
22G13	Billie Cr. Div.	5300'	58	23.9	20.3	24.6	26.7	90
22F18	Diamond Lake	5315'	63	23.2	28.0	32.5	20.7	112
22G14	Fish Lake	4865'	34	12.3	12.4	14.2	12.5	98
22G17	Hobart Lake	5010'	1.1	0.5	8.9	6.2	6.7	7
22G16	Hyatt Pr. Res.	4900'	15	3.6	12.4	12.2	9.4	38
23G6	Oregon Caves**	4000'	0	0.0	No previous record			--
23G5	Page Mountain**	4045'	7.6	2.6	No previous record			--
22G20	Siskiyou Summit	4630'	T	T	--	--	4.0	0
22G1	Whaleback	5140'	90	32.3	39.9	42.8	36.2	89
	Average		--	12.3	18.1	19.8	15.5	79
---	above 6000' ---							
22G6	Annie Spring	6018'	89	32.3	47.8	56.5	44.7	72
22G21	Big Red Mtn.	6500'	56	21.4	42.6	42.8	30.7	70
22G12	Fourmile Lake	6000'	62	25.2	25.6	32.4	29.0	87
23G3	Grayback Pk.	6000'	87	25.7	36.4	32.6	26.9	96
22G22	Little Red Mtn.	6500'	42	15.9	32.9	34.6	24.0	66
22G5	Park Hdqs.	6450'	109	41.0	63.6	69.6	65.1	63
22H1	Scragg Mtn.	6200'	52	19.1	37.6	39.5	30.7	62
22G10	Seven Lakes #1	6800'	118	53.0	65.9	70.2	58.1	91
22G11	Seven Lakes #2	6200'	97	40.9	45.1	48.2	42.9	95
22G18	Wagner Butte	6900'	42	12.3	23.4	19.9	18.0	68
	Average		---	28.7	42.1	44.6	37.0	78
	Average (22 Snow Courses)			18.4	29.6	31.7	23.3	79

* Partly estimated
** No record; not included in averages

SOIL MOISTURE

Soils in:	Fall Status	Current status as of April 1, 19
Lower Valleys	Very dry	Exceptionally dry in most areas--some
Upper Valleys	Very Dry	snow-melt has contributed to the top few
Mountains	Very dry	inches of the soil in recent weeks.